

## Mayor's Message

July 2011

Summer has finally come! This year has provided such unusual weather, especially as we have watched the enormous snowpack make its way into our valley. I drive through the City at least once a day to check on the status of Big and Little Cottonwood Creeks and the Jordan River. It looks like Mother Nature has been kind in how she let the snow come down. As I drive through Murray Park, it is almost a social event as others join me to see the water levels in the Creek. The Fire Department has taken advantage of the high water to practice their skills to aid in swift water rescue. Our Parks and Public Service crews work to pump water to the right locations, shore up the sand bag walls and fish debris out of the water by the bridges. The Police check to keep people safe by reminding them to stay away from the rushing water and slippery banks. Residents walk their dogs, play games and have picnics. It is great that summer is finally here and that because of the work of so many, we made it without any catastrophes. I hope everyone continues to 'play it safe' and make this a fun time of year.

Many things have been happening in the City in the course of the past year. My staff and I have worked hand in hand with the City Council to minimize the budget challenges we have faced during the past few years. As a City, we have been very careful with your tax dollars and have kept us in sound financial condition. This year we offered a retirement incentive to our employees. To our astonishment, 34 of them are choosing to retire in the next two months. That represents close to 10% of our full-time work force and close to 1,000 years of expertise. As they leave, we will feel the loss of their contributions and wish them the best as they move forward with their lives.

With these great employees leaving, we have looked at ways to streamline and improve the ways we provide services to you. At this point in time, only a handful of these positions will be replaced, while others are part of a reorganization that will be put in place Citywide. City Hall will have some dust the next few months as we make some minimal changes to coordinate the reorganization. I am excited about the adjustments we are making and hope they will meet the goal of serving you better.

We appreciate your continued patience with the road work around the City. It will be worth it to have smooth roads and FrontRunner in the center of town. I hope you will take advantage of the many activities that there are to do here in Murray this summer. See a play at the amphitheater, enjoy a round of golf at the Parkway, picnic in one of our great parks, join a sports league or visit the pool for a day to cool off. These are all just reminders that there is "More to Murray!" I'll see you around town.